

The Honorable Michael K. Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

We are writing to you today as a current satellite TV subscriber who would like to add our voice of support to the pending merger of EchoStar and DIRECTV. We live in a very rural area of the panhandle of Nebraska, and the merging of these two satellite providers will provide numerous benefits to consumers like us, including more choices in channels, programming, broadband and new television technologies.

By merging, the combined companies can offer more programming choices and most importantly, because we live in such a rural area, all local TV channels, local news, weather and community information. But just as exciting and beneficial to us, the merger will bring the availability of affordable high-speed Internet service by satellite. These tremendous benefits to consumers like us won't happen without the merger. This will provide us with high-speed internet access because cable modems and DSL are not likely to be available in our area anytime in the near future. (Internet access at any speed over vintage 1970 phone lines available in our area is not a reasonable option.)

In the interest of improving our access to competitive television and Internet service, we urge you to lend your support to this merger.

Sincerely,

Roger & Vicki Uthmann
HC 32 BOX 21
Alliance, NE 69301